

THE MALEO *MACROCEPHALON MALEO* ON BUTON

The Maleo *Macrocephalon maleo* is an endemic megapode of Sulawesi, Indonesia (White & Bruce 1986, Jones *et al.* 1995). Its distribution and the status of nesting grounds on the island have been studied in detail (Dekker 1990, Argeloo 1994). However, the occurrence of the species on Sulawesi's off-lying islands is obscure and requires confirmation (Argeloo 1994, Jones *et al.* 1995).

Buton, one of the islands where according to indirect evidence maleos could possibly occur (Dekker 1990, Argeloo 1994), is located to the south of Sulawesi Tenggara, the southeastern province. Until recently, there had been no confirmed information regarding the occurrence of Maleos on Buton other than eggs which were for sale at the market of Maligano and which were said to originate from a sandy area around the headwaters of the Lebo river (Pramono 1991). Early ornithological expeditions did not mention the species for the island (see van Bemmél & Voous 1951). Recently, Addin (1992) studied microhabitat characteristics of the Maleo nesting grounds and reported the presence of Maleos along the Lebo and Lagito rivers (North Buton Wildlife Reserve between 122°47' and 123°13' E). Sykes (1996) reported their presence on the Maligano coast (between 4°20' and 5°38' S). An average of 4.5 Maleo pairs visited the nesting ground at the Lebo river per day between July and September 1991, with a minimum of 3 pairs and a maximum of 6 pairs per day (Addin 1992). Approximately 10 birds were recorded on the Maligano coast during a three-month survey between August and November 1995 (Sykes 1996). These data confirm the occurrence of the species on Buton.

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14 October 1996

## FRINGILLA COELEBS GENGLERI—AUTHORSHIP AND DATE REVISITED

Some time ago, in a note in this journal, Clancey (1993) stated that the British race of the Chaffinch, known as *Fringilla coelebs gengleri* Kleinschmidt (1909), should instead be attributed to Hens & van Marle (1933). According to Clancey, Kleinschmidt's description of *gengleri* as "form. nov." introduced an unavailable infrasubspecific entity, and Hens & van Marle were the first to use the name for a subspecies, thus making it available under Art. 10 (c) of the Code (International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature 1985) and becoming its authors following Arts. 50 (c) (i) and 23 (j). This view is mistaken and obviously originated from certain misinterpretations of the rules and the original work. It seems worthwhile to use this case to illustrate the provisions of the Code regulating treatment of infraspecific names which are rather complicated and distributed among various articles.

First of all, if the interpretation were actually correct that Kleinschmidt (1909) had created with *F. c. gengleri* an infrasubspecific name in the sense of the Code, it would not have been Hens & van Marle (1933) who made it available, but most probably Gengler (1924). In this detailed study of Chaffinch races, *Fringilla coelebs gengleri* Kleinschmidt appears among others, thus Art. 10 (c) is satisfied. It cannot be excluded, however, that some other work between Kleinschmidt's and Gengler's publications already uses *gengleri* as a name for a subspecies. I only mention these details to highlight an awkward nomenclatorial problem when author and date of names first published as infrasubspecific have to be determined: complete knowledge of pertinent literature is necessary.

Fortunately, in the case discussed here, this problem is not relevant. Clancey's allegation that *F. c. gengleri* is not available from Kleinschmidt (1909) is obviously based on the belief that an intersexual variant was described as a "form. nov.", being expressly infrasubspecific under Art. 45 (f) (iv). A study of the original work reveals, however, that this is not the case. Kleinschmidt first describes an individual variant in Chaffinches, then states that "... I found among English Chaffinches such a surprisingly high percentage of ... (this variant) ... that I dare separate the English breeders because of the frequency of the new variant". It is thus clear that the name *gengleri* was erected not for the individual variant itself but for a geographic entity. Kleinschmidt himself, in the very same paper, says that "... it is debatable if such an individual variety should be named as an aberr. nov. as insect collectors do in similar cases". Throughout his scientific work, Kleinschmidt used "form" as a denomination for geographic subdivisions within his "Formenkreise", a kind of precursor of the superspecies concept (e.g. Kleinschmidt 1900, 1901). While the status of Kleinschmidt's "Formenkreis"-names is debatable because of his deliberate disregard of the rules of zoological nomenclature, all of his names erected for "forms" doubtlessly have to be treated as available names in the species-group following Arts. 45 (f) (ii) and (g) (ii) (for an overview of Kleinschmidt's nomenclature, see Haffer (1992) and references therein).